

IN FOCUS

The Official Publication of the Jamaican Canadian Association

E-mail: info@jcassoc.org

November 2008 Issue

Miss Jamaica World visits youth in Jane and Finch

Rosemarie Hylton

Ms. Jamaica World 2008 Brittany Lyons and her Chaperone Delores Jackson arrived at the Jamaican Canadian Association on September 19, 2008. Ms. Lyons met with JCA's Interim Executive Director, President and Youth Committee Chair. She had a tour of the agency, and then attended the Volunteer Recognition Event at the Jane/Finch Community and Family Center, where she participated by handing out certificates of appreciation to the Centre's volunteers and engaged with the youth.

The 21 year old Kingstonian says she attended St. Andrew High School where

she participated in swimming, water polo and cricket. She has completed an associate's degree in Business Administration and is currently taking a sabbatical from the Fashion Merchandising degree that she is working on. Ms. Lyons states she is very elated about the experience of participating in the pageant and did so because her mother was also in the same pageant, and was placed second in 1980. Ms. Lyons describes herself as a proud, outgoing person who takes on challenges. One of her responsibilities as winner of the pageant is to attend a benefit concert of Hope for Jamaican children with Aids, where she will do anything she can to help with the cause. 🌿



Be Movement - Be Still, Be Witness, Be Inspired and Be a Part of Progress

"The Mad Typist© 2008

Wow! Taking nothing away from historic moments, these are some exciting times that many people have dreamt about. Some have wished on them and others have acted to bring them to life. The moments I am referring to are the uplifting of the Jamaican and African Diasporas. I pen this as The Be Movement - Be Still, Be Witness, Be Inspired and Be a Part of Progress.

Take a break from what you are doing and I am not implying you break from this great article but pause from any task to carry out what I am about to present. Focus your attention, Shhh! (silence)...Exercise what we sometimes fail to do, "Be Still".

Be still and let the mind capture the moment. "Be Still" allowing your mind to

give homage and blessing to what you and others have been witness to - my phrase "Be Witness".

I am talking about witnessing in August 2008, the Olympic feats of Jamaican Athletes that were put on the world stage... The In Focus team couldn't contain itself when they reported on this. In November, the world witnessed the first elected African American President, Barack Obama and pending January 20, 2009 inauguration ceremony, the new flavor to the American White House; The Obama family...JCA patrons on America's election night couldn't sit down or stop themselves from dancing. Savor!

"Be Witness" that these great moments have been echoed around the world and etched in history. Now bringing the witnessing closer to home at JCA's 6th Annual Scholarship awards ceremony in September, I witnessed local greatness in

Education. The young award recipients were from a variety of professional backgrounds and all very accomplished in their own right. As the guest speaker Marcia Williams pointed out young people have to equip themselves to compete to move ahead. A few recipients showcased their creative talents by entertaining the attendees in theatrical dancing and soulful singing...no doubt they are equipping themselves. Savor!

While we recognize and salute individual or group achievements, let's remember that they need fortification and positive support. Savor the moment of being still, witnessing and freeing yourself to "Be Inspired". P4

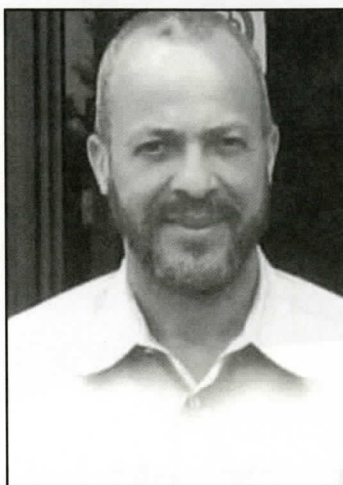
**NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2008
AT 2 PM**

**JAMAICAN
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Herman Stewart

It is a pleasure to extend warm greetings to all members, friends and supporters of the JCA. I hope the summer was a safe and enjoyable one for you and hope you are all looking forward to the Christmas Season. During the past quarter your Board of Directors has kept a busy schedule focussing on our key priorities.

Fundraising: In our commitment to retiring the mortgage, we continue to embark on our fundraising events. We now have secured sponsors for all five prizes in the pending raffle. The top prize will be a Caribbean cruise for two. We are preparing to do the launch the first week of December and we are counting

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION IN FOCUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

on strong participation from the membership as that is the only way we are going to be successful.

In early 2009 we will embark on our direct mail campaign. Our goal is to reach beyond the membership to the wider community including all the Caribbean focused businesses. As you are aware, in 2009 we will celebrate 47 years of stellar service to the Caribbean community. As such, we will be asking the entire community for a vote of confidence in the form of one dollar for each year of our stellar service. This means \$47 payable in full upon commitment or in instalments that fits each individual budget. It's not much to ask when you consider the work we are doing to make life better for our community. As our Jamaican saying goes "one, one cocoa full basket".

Organizational Review: The review conducted by the hired consultants is now completed and will be presented to the membership in due course. In the mean time we are making a number of changes and improvements to serve you better. On the Social Service

program side, we will be changing the management structure in order to bring more stability and improve service to that area. The changes will be gradual starting in January 2009. We have done a lot of work in the board office to improve our appearance and our record keeping. We have hired an administrative assistant to assist the board in its administrative functions. One improvement you should notice is tax receipts going out in a timely manner.

Membership: We have established a volunteer awards committee to identify and select appropriate candidates for various annual awards; among them the "outstanding volunteer of the year award". We will be doing an open house geared towards attracting new members and our new members; this will be done on a semi annual basis.

Look forward to see you at our quarterly meeting on November 30th.
Yes we can.....

In Solidarity 🍀

Season's Greetings

T.M. Typist ©2008

*Stars of wonder
Christmas tree of lights
Santa dressed in his same
old sight.
For the sake of Jesus Christ
Remember Christmas and
keep it holy
And don't let gifts create
pockets that are holey*

*For it's the day before
Christmas
And not a store is closed
Perfumes, scarves, pajamas
and all must go*

*And don't be surprise if you
get a gift of hose
For it's the thought that
counts, so let it show*

*Sorrel, Rum cake and any
other food
Won't simply do
Just add toppings of laughs,
hugs and chats
Amongst friends and family
Wouldn't that be jolly*

*For it could be cold, snow,
sunshine or rain
Dear Lord let these words
reign*

*Within our minds
That JCA wouldn't mind
our time
And also important, our
time
To even sing a carol or two
Without listening only to
the President and his crew.*

With you, we can!

*Happy Holidays and
Happy Jah Blessed New
Year. Guidance and
blessings to you and
yours!*

Walk Good



INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Nzinga Walker

The Jamaican Canadian Association Social Services Program continues to excel and provide exceptional services to our children, youth, parents and the community at large. This has led to staff being invited and selected as significant committee members. This is an important and impressive collaboration which is indicative of the JCA's vision to strengthen community engagement. It is our hope to maintain and increase our community involvement as the needs of mental health services among Black Youth and Families are rapidly increasing. Not only do we have the challenges of mental illness with our youth but the fact that the North Quadrant Catholic and Toronto Children Aids Societies

are both reporting that there is a significant increase of Afro Caribbean youth that are in-care and awaiting adoptions. It is our intent to work closely with these agencies to provide culturally specific intervention measures and support.

Earlier this year the Ministry of Children and Youth Services announced that the Youth Opportunities Worker program will receive core funding. Yet, we were forewarned that the anticipated impact of the current economical situation may affect future additional funding.

The JCA is still in the process of finalizing the collective bargaining agreement. Negotiations continue to be very amicable.

The JCA secured funding through Service Canada for our summer camp program. A total of 5 counsellors were hired to operate the program. This year we had approximately 15 youth attended the camp for the 8 week duration of the program. This past summer the YOW Lead for the North Quadrant organized a back to school extravaganza with other partnering agencies which was a tremendous success. The extravaganza was attended by

approximately 1000 youth and their parents. This event will be annualized due to the demand and achievements experienced.

The seniors and staff participated in a United Way excursion of the launch of the 2008 campaign at the Nathan Phillip's Square. We are currently participating in the United Way fundraising event. At the JCA we have a penny drive that is thriving; a \$2.00 guess card with various gifts; and we are encouraging everyone to donate to this worthy cause and to assist us with achieving our goal of raising \$5000.00. I would like to acknowledge our staff Mary Mark, YOW Lead for the North Quadrant, for the extensive and exceptional work she has done over the past year.

This quarter was a very productive and exciting. I would like to thank Staff, Board, Volunteers and the Members for the continued support they extended to the enhancement of the association during my tenure. I wish everyone a festive holiday and all the best for the New Year. 🍀

Sincerely,

K-Club Participant

LETTER FROM PARTICIPANT TO K-CLUB COUNSELOR

I was a member of the The Transition Program (K-Club), offered at the Jamaican-Canadian Association (JCA). I am writing you in regards to Grace Williams, who was my counselor for the program. I would just like to commend Mrs. Williams on her excellent skills in educating and guiding me towards the completion of the program successfully. In the program, I completed sessions which dealt with: what is anger, the difference between healthy and unhealthy anger, conflict resolution, forming and maintaining

positive relations, conflict resolution, assault and its effects, power of choice and their consequences. Her advice and knowledge of these topics gave me a fundamental and clear understanding of each field. With her leadership, I received a certificate for finishing the program, in which I took to the Ontario Court Of Justice. With the possession of that certificate, it led my court case to the best result possible!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank and recommend Mrs. Williams to

anyone who has these types of issues/problems. Not only did she educate me but she helped me become a much better and stronger person who is now in control of their feelings and choices. I wish Mrs. Williams all the best in her future endeavors and if she continues on the same path I am confident that she will continue to be an asset to the JCA, her community and country.

STAFF

Wainworth Morrison,
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Janet Neilson,
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Coordinator
Marie Chapman,
Receptionist
Jennifer McFarlane,
Building Operator

CARIBBEAN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES (CYFS)

Beverly Valentine,
Intake Worker
Grace Williams,
K-Club Counselor
Pamela Seaton-Griffith,
LIP Counselor
**Paulette Crooks-
Drummond,**
Parenting Counselor

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Sonia Dixon, Counselor
OPPORTUNITY PLUS +
Sandra Holness, Coordinator
Annmarie Whyte,
Administrative Assistant
Dawn Brown,
Job Developer
Noeline John,
Employment Counsellor

YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER (YOW) AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) PROGRAMS

Karen Brown,
VAW and YOW Coordinator
Elvina Sandiford,
VAW Counsellor
Mary Mark,
YOW Lead Coordinator
Troy Logan,
YOW Counselor

Self-Confidence, Peer Pressure and their Relation to Community Violence

Join a committee:

- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Building
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Finance



Tia Sutherland

As human beings, we all want to feel like we belong. We want to be accepted by our family, friends or colleagues.

For most young people, to be accepted is exemplified by belonging to a certain group or crowd, dressing or looking a certain way, or taking part in certain activities. These are all ways of gaining favor and recognition by others. Wanting to belong and be like their peers is key factor in the formation of the youth's identity. But when does this social need become detrimental?

Be Movement cont.

Don't allow yourself to be still and be witness but unable to be inspired. From a word, a line, a story, feel inspiration pump through your blood stream. A poet quoted: *"The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."* These words serve to inspire greatness in the same way the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "I have a Dream" inspired President-elect Barack Obama.

Inspiring stories such as those of 3 great Jamaican Athletes, Donald Quarry, Arthur Wint or Herb McKinley were told in Jamaican school books that gave inspiration to future

Peer pressure can be both positive or negative, the latter being potentially self-destructive. Smoking, drinking, experimenting with drugs and engaging in risky sexual activity are some of the most common pressures that today's youth face. Of these, one of the biggest negative pressures affecting society at large is gang, youth and community violence.

According to Canadian official police-charge statistics, rates of violent crime among female youth have increased over the last decade, while rates of violent crime among male youth have remained relatively stable. Between 1991 and 2000 there was a 66 percent increase in violent-crime charges laid against female youth (322 to 481 charges per 100,000 girls) versus a 7 percent increase in violent-crime charges among male youth (1328 to 1341 charges per 100,000 boys).

But the question that has been repeatedly asked is, "Why do gangs form?". "Gangs come

into existence and flourish because the needs of the young people in a neighborhood or culture or family are not being met. The gang, in essence, fills the void." (Gardner, 1992, p. 83)

For someone with a high level of self-confidence, joining a gang for acceptance would be unnecessary. But for one who lacks self-confidence, becoming part of a gang that recognizes and accepts them is a satisfying solution. While some gang members glorify themselves and think highly of what they have become, some youth who join gangs suffer from a negative self image. Opportunities to feel good about themselves in their family or at school are few and far between. These emotional problems drive them to act super tough to compensate for their sense of inferiority. As in non-gang society, gangs offer many ways in which their members may earn respect. Succeeding in the commission of a crime earns respect. Respect may be earned by ripping people off, disrespecting authority, dominating another person, exploiting others, **P9**

building and encouraging others towards positive advancement. Yes! I have witness it. Groups such as the Black Action Defence Committee (BADC) and many others provide support that paves a lighter road to travel for many on the way to their success. Yes! The movement is alive. The fruits of such progress are being harvested and shared with others. So many other progressive movements are out there in our community and when we stop to be still, be witness, be inspired, we will be a part of it. We are well on our way.

Savor! 🍀



TID BIT

By Alton Telfer

It is that time of the year again when we have to mentally switch gears; go from summer to winter mode. I know that most of us, excluding the skiers would prefer to stay in the summer mode considering this summer was a fairly good one after deducting the 193.2 mm rainfall we had in July (breaking the record set in 1980) and adding the thirty plus degree temperature in August. I enjoyed it and am hoping that you did as well. Summer officially ended on September 20th and the feel of fall season officially known as autumn was immediately felt due to the rapid fall of temperature especially at nights.

Many exciting things have been happening in our midst recently especially on the political front. I am sure you, like many people around the world have been watching with profound interest the turn of events in the United States of America. How Barack Obama has revolutionized the political scene, similar to what Tiger Woods' has done to golf, energizing the interest of young and old, rich and poor, people of all shades. There are many people living here in Canada that would be willing to travel to the states to vote on November 4th 2008 if they could do so, but did not bother to vote here on October 14th.

In this era, voting is no more a privilege but a right. Back in 1867, at the first general election in Canada, After Confederation, women were not allowed to vote. This was a privilege reserved for white



From left, JCA Scholarship Committee chair SYLVANUS THOMPSON, RAPHAELITA WALKER, her husband GIFFORD and JCA president HERMAN STEWART. Photo by Ron Fairair

males over the age of 21 who owned property above a specific value. There was no secret ballot procedures, people had to publicly declare by show of hands who they were voting for. We have come a long way and we all should appreciate where we are at this point-in-time. At the last federal election, only fifty nine (59) percent of eligible voters cast a ballot. In Australia it is against the law not to vote and a fine could be imposed by the court if guilty. We here need to be more serious about the right to vote. There is a newly formed organization championed by Delores Lawrence and Company called "Black Vote Canada". It's mission (as I understand) is to create consciousness within the Black community as it relates to voting in all elections and to feel candidates for the various political office positions; they were noticeably dormant in the recent federal election.

Let me now take you back to September 20th, 2008 when JCA staged its annual scholarship award presentation. The house was full and the evening was very

enjoyable. Twenty five students received scholarships and bursaries. This is a substantial increase over previous years. I must use this medium to pay tribute to the scholarship presenters and more so to Sylvanus Thompson the Education Chair and his committee for a job well done.

I must also congratulate Ben Johnson for attending the funeral of former Ontario Chief Justice, Charles Dubin who died October 27th, 2008. Justice Dubin was the judge that stripped him of his gold medal he earned at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

It also appears as if it was just a few months ago that Christmas was here, in another few weeks it will be here again, my, my how time flies! Let me now convey an early "Season's Greetings" and to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable time and a very prosperous 2009. 🍀

Twenty five students received scholarships and bursaries through the JCA Scholarship Awards.

The Membership Committee would like to stay in touch with you. If you move or have up-to-date contact information that would help us stay in touch, please complete and fax in the membership form to 416 746 7030 as soon as possible. This will help to keep in touch with you as well as reduce returned mail and the associated costs.

The Children's Christmas Party is nearly here, Sunday December 7th 1:00 p.m. Registration will be restricted to a first come first serve basis.

**We're on the Web
www.jcassoc.org**

About Operation Black Vote: www.obvc.org

Operation Black Vote Canada is a non-partisan group, operating as a not-for-profit organization in Canada. OBVC was formed in the summer of 2004 due to frustration by the Federal political process. Its activities focus on the education, representation and participation of Black Canadians in the political process. Operation Black Vote Canada includes and is supported by members from several black organizations and Associations. They are located at 120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 900 Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

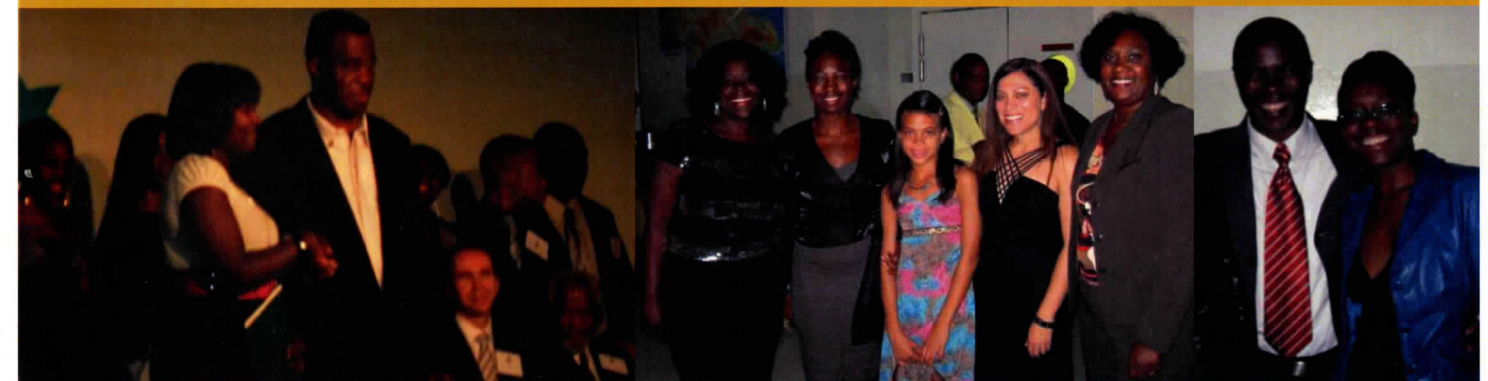
JCA IN THE COMMUNITY



www.youngphoto.ca



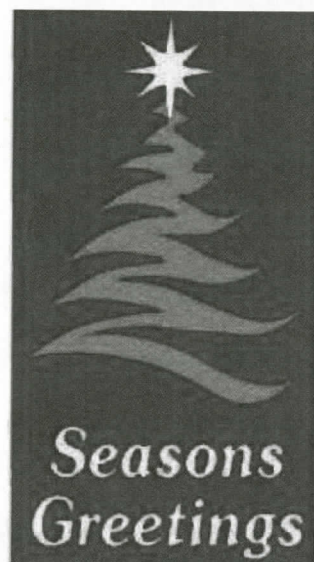
2008 Annual Scholarship Awards



09/20/2008

The Women's Committee hosted another successful Film Discussion and Community Gifting Event on Sunday November 16th. Donations were made to the Eva's Initiatives.

Look out for our International Women's Day celebration coming on March 8, 2009.



Contact members of the Editorial Committee to submit articles or place an ad:

Rosemarie Powell
Rosemarie Hylton
Dwayne Osbourne
Sheila Raymond

Tel: 416-746-5772

Email:
jcainfocus@gmail.com

WOMEN'S CORNER

Women's Committee

(Cont. from August Edition In Focus)

Women and the Environment Conference — June 14, 2008
Human Rights Then and Now: Implications for Black Women

ACTION PLAN

We are educated. We are united. We declare it. We together, solidly as one, know what we want are achieving it.

1. We are political. We are getting the educational information that we need so that we can develop and use our own tools. As we learn more about this (human rights) process, we are sharing it within the community.
2. We are utilizing the experience of people that have gone through the process, while being careful about disclosing sensitive information about our community members as they go through it. I inform my MPP now that I am participating in knowing who is going to be in the Ontario Human Rights

Tribunal.

3. I declare that we have the knowledge of the process. The information is available to us. We understand the process and make use of it. The Jamaican Canadian Association is instrumental in bringing in resources. I declare that church leaders are instrumental in bring relevant resources to our community.
4. I declare that we are leading by example and we are instrumental in educating our young as they too further lead by example.
5. We as a community are political and make sure that our political parties have representation from our communities. The Jamaican Canadian Associations Women's Committee leads the education and marketing for this forum to further share what we all know to join other groups.
6. I acknowledge that our community leaders are experts in Human Rights. They have always been. The gains we have come from us. The

Jamaican Canadian Association takes and continues this leadership to identify the challenge we are dealing with to be a source of collecting and disseminating and collecting and connecting to share the information and create the solutions for our benefit.

7. I am informed, my committee is informed. My committee is co-lead in gathering information in accessing resources in partnering with necessary legal bodies to ensure community representation. My committee is dedicated to ensuring full community representation to any necessary complainant.

8. Leadership for Jamaican Canadian Association is linked with our political representatives at all levels: municipal, provincial, federal.

9. We are capable of educating ourselves in the methods necessary to explore the political process regarding Human Rights as well we learn more the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal.

JCA VOLUNTEER AWARDS COMMITTEE

Camille-Hannays-King

On October 20th 2008, the Volunteer Awards Committee held its inaugural meeting. The Committee is comprised of the following members: Camille Hannays-King, Chair; Daphne Bailey, Erma Collins, Pam Reynolds, Membership Chair and Audrey Campbell, Executive Vice-President.

This Committee was formed to solicit and receive nominations for Volunteer Awards within the JCA and also the larger community. Throughout the year, the committee will be soliciting nominees for the following awards: Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award; Outstanding Committee of the Year Award;

President's Award; Quarter Century Club formerly the 25 year award; and will also be seeking nominations for various categories of Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Volunteer Awards.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards will be the first in the series of awards that the Committee will be seeking nominations for. In this category, six Adults and one Youth will be nominated from the JCA. Criteria: Adult nominees must have volunteered with one group for 5 consecutive years. Youth nominees must be under 24 and have volunteered with one group for two consecutive years.

The Committee is also seeking to nominate one person from the JCA for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals and groups that have made an exceptional contribution to volunteerism in Ontario.

The Committee will be accepting nominations from December 1, 2008 until January 7, 2009 for the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Volunteer Awards. To nominate a volunteer you must complete a nomination form. Forms will be available at the JCA from December 1, 2008.

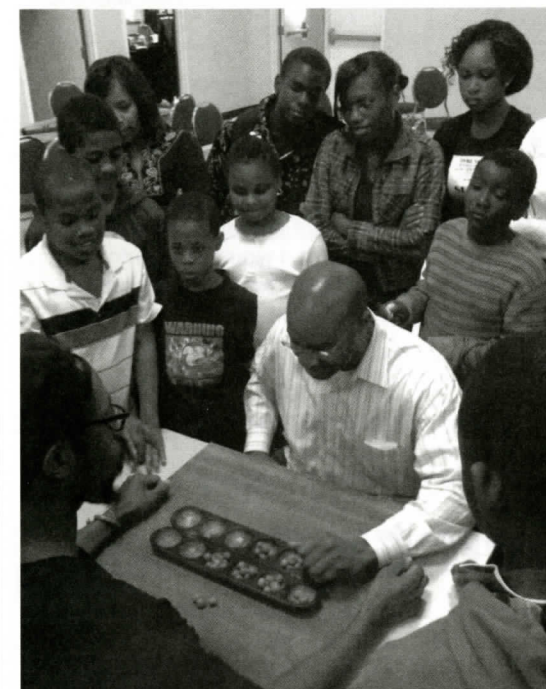


Saturday Morning Tutorial Program

-SMTP-

BOLT to Educational Success!

Kellie Spence



Hopeful and enthusiastic contender (centre) plays the master, Brother Oji. The Owari competition was on!

Hello Everyone! The SMTP is here to help students reach their goals. It is a valuable and rewarding program that relies on many groups to be successful: dedicated students; committed volunteer tutors; active parents and the JCA Education Committee.

In October, we had a great heritage session and were introduced to the African Math game, Owari. Both students and tutors were excited alike to learn this game requiring strong math and concentration skills.

On Saturday November 22, 2008, we are planning an in-house workshop. We are finding a need to assist many of our students in getting organized. As we all know, an organized student is a successful student! Parents are welcome to join in on the session.

As history is being made in the American elections, we should remember that politics is a not just a spectator sport - it is full contact! It is important that our students decide what role they will play in our society. Regardless of their profession, they should actively participate in the political, social and economic systems that maintain and improve our quality of life.

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For more information, contact
Kellie Spence, SMTP Coordinator
jca_smtp@kydiaz.com
416-746-5772 x 246

The Youth Committee is seeking new members.

If you are interested, email Dwayne Osbourne at youthaffairs@jcassoc.org



The JCA Domino Club meets on Fridays or Saturdays every week at the Jamaican Canadian Association inside the Games Room.

Call for more information:

Josephine Spence:
416-570-7601

Gifford Walker:
416-222-4695

Self-Confidence, Peer Pressure and their Relation to Community Violence Cont.

serving time in prison, and being a known associate of a gang member with greater status than one's own. The point here is that a gang provides these opportunities, which a youth with low self-confidence may perceive as unattainable outside of a gang.

The existence of self-confidence is a vital aid in the fight against peer pressure and gang/community violence. A person with high self-confidence is generally optimistic, and considers the world a good place to be. They possess the ability to solve (rather than avoid or deny) problems, see mistakes as learning experiences, understand and are able to express feelings and emotions in positive ways, and live life independently. Youth that hold these characteristics are less

likely to seek the acceptance from gangs because they would have already accepted themselves. They would not need approval from others to be who they are because they are happy with themselves. A person with self-confidence is not easily coerced into doing things that are not of their will or a part of their belief system because they trust and believe in themselves.

Community and gang violence is often a result of peer pressure, but the greater problem is a lack of self-assurance. The feeling of not belonging or having nothing has to be by far one of the most difficult situations to deal with. At the same time, we as individuals should have the feeling that

the only person we have to please is ourselves. It takes someone with an incredible amount of courage and self-confidence to defy the accepted group norms. Once we have trust and faith in ourselves, overcoming peer pressure will come naturally.

This new outlook is not always easy to achieve, or easy for others to deal with, but in order to beat the odds and avoid becoming just another statistic, it must be accomplished. Our actions should reflect our moral values if we want to fulfill our expectations and dreams. I hope that with time everyone will be able to say they live their lives according entirely to what they believe. Because sadly, not many people can truthfully say that they do.

The Public Relations Committee is responsible for the publication of the JCA In Focus. Members are:

- Rosemarie Powell, Chair
- Rosemarie Hylton
- Dwayne Osbourne
- Alton Telfer
- Sheila Raymond
- Pauline Reynolds
- Zenover Brown
- Herman Stewart
- Tia Sutherland
- Ambra Yirenskyi
- Clayton Thomas

Letters and submissions are welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for content and length.

If you would like to volunteer on a sub-committee, please contact the Membership Chair at 416 746 5772 ext 249.



Rosemarie Powell

Q: Tell us about yourself?
A: I am a senior manager in a non profit organisation serving the Jane and Finch

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION IN FOCUS

Member Highlights

community. I am responsible for Human Resources and Operations. My goal in life is to amplify the voice of the community and to facilitate the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of those who dare to dream of a better future for all. I want to give my daughter the best of myself and then I want to protect the environment, advance world peace and foster a better quality of life for all.

Q: Why did you join the Board?
A: I have skills that I want to share for the betterment of my community. Moreover I believe I can learn a lot from the JCA and

the pool of talented individuals that work and volunteer with the organisation.

Q: Changes you would like to see?
A: I would like us to listen at all levels of the organisation. Often, it is not the loudest or the most articulate person that needs to be heard. I would like us to prioritise a healthy organisation that is open to all.

Q: Any final thoughts?
Like we used to say when we were children "If you don't like it, then bite it and put it the way you want it."

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CORNER

Pam Reynolds

Special thanks to the Membership Committee and the many, many volunteers, including Board members who rolled up their sleeves and jumped in to assist the Membership Committee meet its objectives on many occasions throughout the year, we could not have one it without you. THANK YOU.

Our Annual Family Day was held this year at Kingsbridge Park, Niagara Falls. Approximately 150 members and their families came out to relax enjoy some fellowship, fun and games.

The feedback has been very positive about the event and the venue. Thanks to the Membership Committee and our many volunteers for an excellent job.

The Annual Flag Raising Ceremony went off successfully thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and talent to bringing off another successful event.

The Annual Seniors Appreciation Brunch was well attended again this year with approximately two hundred seniors and guests. Thanks to the, Membership Committee members, members of the Board of Directors and the many volunteer performers who

did an outstanding job; The Earl Brothers, MC Delroy Sterling, Roy Williams and Mrs. Nelson , for making it a memorable event for our seniors and guests.

The next Quarterly Membership Meeting is Sunday November 30th 2:00 p.m. at the JCA Centre and all are invited to come out and participate in the process. We would like to hear from you and look forward to seeing you.

Our sincere sympathies to bereaved families of our members and our heartfelt good wishes for a speedy recovery to those members who are not able to join us due to illness or who are on the road to recovery.

UPCOMING EVENTS BEFORE THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING

Please note: The following event dates were submitted to the Public Relations Committee by the printing deadline

Event	Committee	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09	Feb 09
Quarterly Meeting	Board	30			
Children's Christmas Party	Board		7		
New Year's Eve Gala	Fundraising Committee		31		
JCA Quarterly Newsletter	Public Relations			X	
Boonoonoonoos	Fundraising/Executive VP				10
Black History Month Event	Staff/Education Committee				X
Quarterly Members Meeting	Board				24

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JamaicanCanadianAssociation
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Telephone: (416)746-5772 Fax: (416) 746-7035
Email: info@jcassoc.org Website: jcassoc.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT FORM

DATE OF APPLICATION: MM / DD / YY

APPLICANT:

MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MISS ☐ MS. ☐

SURNAME: _____

GIVEN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MM / DD / YY (OPTIONAL)

CO-APPLICANT:

MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MISS ☐ MS. ☐

SURNAME: _____

GIVEN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MM / DD / YY (OPTIONAL)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

ADDRESS: APT/UNIT STREET # STREET NAME

CITY POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE#: HOME: BUSINESS: MOBILE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

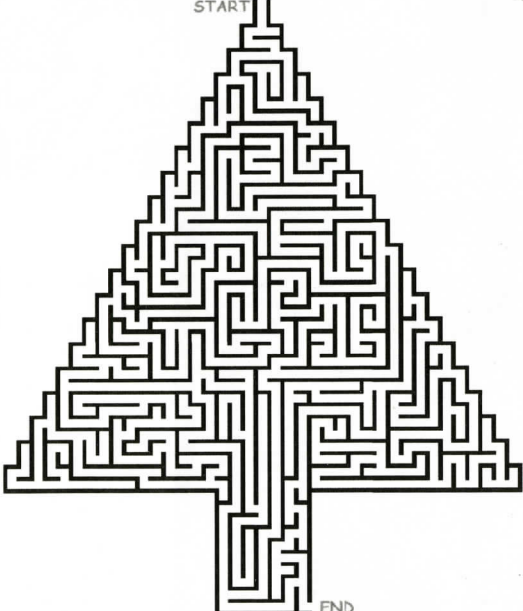
MEMBERSHIP FEES PAID: \$25.00 ☐ SINGLE (25-64 yrs) \$35.00 ☐ FAMILY (2 adults + children under 16) \$10.00 ☐ SENIORS (65+) \$10.00 ☐ YOUTH/STUDENT (16-24 yrs)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

CO-APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

Christmas greetings in various languages including: NADOLIG LLAWEN (WELSH), JOYEUX NOËL (FRENCH), MERRY CHRISTMAS (ENGLISH), BUON NATALE (ITALIAN), HAPPY HANUKKAH (HEBREW), etc. Includes a drawing of a Christmas tree and a penguin.



Jamaican Canadian Association

celebrates



NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Wednesday December 31, 2008

Dinner & Dance \$55 (or \$60 after Christmas)

Dance only \$35 or \$40 from 10:30pm

Cocktails from 6:30pm

Music By:

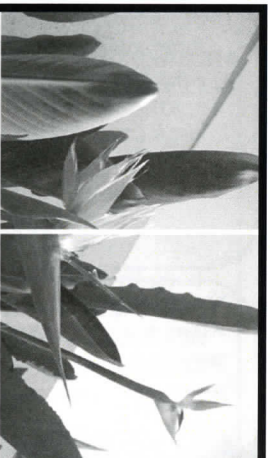
Soul 2 Soul with Grandmaster Rosa

Champagne at Midnight

For tickets call:

416-746-5772, 416-222-4695, 416-443-8757 & 905-279-1060

Always a sold-out event!



Ultimate Experience!

Sign up for a **JN** account, and get a chance to WIN BIG!!

GRAND PRIZE: **CDN\$15,000**

GRAND DRAW: March 30, 2009

Four (4) prizes to be won each quarter!!
(Draw Dates: June 30, 2008, September 30, 2008,
December 30, 2008 and March 30, 2009)

Breezes
RESORTS
A return trip for 2 adults to a Caribbean Destination and a 7 Night stay at a Breezes All-Inclusive Resort at that Destination.
MINIMUM \$400 - MONTEGO BAY - ANAHA
PUERTO PLATA - COXCAZO - COSTA DO LAGO

JAMAICA
A Weekend for 2 adults at a beautiful and cozy Resort in Jamaica.
Once you go, you know.



A Gift Basket courtesy of Lasco Foods.



A Gift Basket courtesy of Jablum.



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1.800.565.2632

Mon-Fri 9am - 6pm, Sat 10am - 4pm

*No purchase necessary. Conditions apply. Contact us for details. Accounts are opened and maintained in Jamaica, WI.



JN Premium Club
Savings Account

- up to **14.25%** p.a. JN\$ savings
- up to **5.75%** p.a. US\$ savings
- up to **6.50%** p.a. GBP£ savings
- up to **4.75%** p.a. CDN\$ savings